



State of California
Employment Training Panel

Training Proposal for:
Biosphere Industries, L.L.C.
Agreement Type: **Small Business**
Agreement Number: **ET09-0322**

Panel Meeting of: **October 17, 2008**

ETP Regional Office: **North Hollywood**

Analyst: J. Romero

CONTRACTOR:

- Type of Industry: Manufacturing:
Priority Industry: ☒ Yes ☐ No
- Contractor's # of Full-Time Employees
 - California: 11
 - Worldwide: 11
 - Number to be trained: 11
- Turnover Rate: 20%
- Repeat Contractor: ☐ Yes ☒ No

CONTRACT:

- Training Project Profile: Priority/Retrainee
- ETP Funding Amount: \$17,160
- In Kind Contribution: \$20,000
- Average Cost per Trainee: \$1,560
- Post Retention Wage: \$12.85
- Health Benefits: \$1.80 per hour
- Occupations to be Trained: Production Staff, Research and Development Staff
- Training Menu:
 - ☐ Business skills ☐ Literacy skills
 - ☐ Commercial skills ☐ Management skills
 - ☒ Computer skills ☒ Manufacturing skills
 - ☐ Cont. Improvement ☐ Other:
- Range of Hours: 8 - 80 Weighted Average: 60
- Multiple Job Numbers: ☐ Yes ☒ No

- County(ies) Served: Santa Barbara
- Union Representation: ☐ Yes ☒ No
- Subcontractor: Pacific Western Aerospace of El Segundo and CAD/CAM Consulting Services Inc. of Newbury Park will provide Computer training; Siemens PLM Software of Cypress will provide Manufacturing training for amounts to be determined.
- Third Party Services: None

INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2002, Biosphere Industries, L.L.C. (Biosphere) manufactures biodegradable rigid packaging made primarily from yearly harvested raw materials. In the last seven years, it has developed the technological process and the equipment to produce microwave and oven capable rigid packaging that can be disposed of in the paper waste stream, home or commercial composting, and even the garbage disposal. Biosphere's material is based primarily of starches and potatoes with a small percentage of grass fibers, making them biodegradable and earth-friendly. The company's production plant is located in Carpinteria.

In 2006, Biosphere created a product called "Renew-a-Pak". In its production line, the company uses naturally compostable and garbage disposable safe materials; and steam is the only by-product used in its manufacturing process.

The company representative states the primary training goal is to expand its market while ensuring quality products. The proposed training will provide trainees the skills needed to achieve maximum production at a competitive rate with minimal waste and promotion of clean technology.

RECOMMENDATION

For the reasons set forth above, staff recommends approval of this proposal.